

# RESTORE

...the rural heritage of Collin County

Winter 2012



**Happy New Year from the**  
Collin County Farm Museum  
*at Myers Park and Event Center*  
7117 County Road 166  
McKinney, TX 75071



# ReStore

The Oxford English Dictionary has two definitions for “**restore**”:

1) *To store again...*

Many artifacts at the Farm Museum were once stored by donors in dusty barns, tucked away in sheds or displayed on shelves. Through donations, the Farm Museum collects these artifacts and **re-stores** them within the collections facility and exhibits. Thus, the artifact’s history is preserved and available for educating the public.

2) *To bring back...*

Through the generous contribution of Farm Museum volunteers’ time and knowledge, artifacts are systematically **restored** to their former glory through various project based restoration exhibits.



Jennifer Rogers, Museum Coordinator

7117 County Road 166

McKinney, TX 75071

972-548-4792

*Cover Page Image: Historic  
McKinney, Texas - Source:  
Preservation McKinney*

If you have historic photographs  
to share, please contact the Collin  
County Farm Museum.



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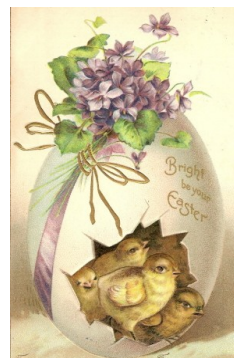
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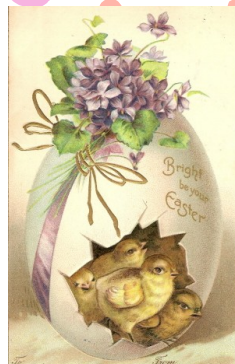


# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COLLIN COUNTY FARM MUSEUM?



## During the month of **January:**

- ✓ The Cotton Harvest exhibit showcases at the Collin County Livestock Show (continued page 7).
- ✓ The research and installation of the "Revolution of the Harvest" begins.



## During the month of **March:**

- ✓ The Farm Museums Outdoor Exhibits will open to public. A guide will be available.
- ✓ Model T Driving Lessons (TBA)



## During the month of **February:**

- ✓ Win an adventurous ride and romantic picture for Valentine's Day in the 1911 Ford Model T (continued page 8).



## Updates:

- ✓ Collin County Farm Museum and Myers Park & Event Center's new website has launched. Visit us at [www.myersinfo.com](http://www.myersinfo.com)
- ✓ The Restoration Exhibit program gears up (continued page 4).

# PLANNING YOUR VISIT...

## Hours of Operation:

- Open by appointment only through February!
- Starting in March, Open Wednesday & Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Additional hours by appointment only.

## Entrance Fees:

\$3 per Adult/Senior  
\$2 per Youth (ages 6-16)  
Children under 6 y.o. are FREE

## Group Rates:

\*for 10 or more people  
\$2 per Adult/Senior  
\$1 per Youth (ages 6-16)

## School Rates:

\$1 per Teacher/Chaperone  
\$1 per Student





# WHAT TO DO?



## RESTORE EXHIBIT STORE

Restoring History... The Collin County Farm Museum is dedicated to restoring historic artifacts from 1840 to 1960. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, visitors to the museum are able to witness the restoration process. The volunteers have completed four projects in 2011 and have started restoring three more.

During November and December the Restoration Exhibit area was created. This is a designated area for all the volunteers' tools and supplies, as well as plenty of room to house and operate on the artifacts undergoing restoration.

### RESTORE PROJECTS



Roger's current project is the 1947 Ford truck (Obj. Id# 2010.01.001a) donated by Billie Cox in January 2011. Extensive cleaning and airing out occurred for the first 6 months it was at the Farm Museum. Over the last 4 months, Roger stripped out the seat and engine compartment. Once the engine was stripped, he sandblasted the inside, cleaned it and painted with a self-etching primer. Now he is ready to paint and rebuild the engine. From inside the truck he was able to get the original color from the dash!



Jeff's current project is the 1948 Massy Harris tractor, Model 44 (Obj. Id# 2010.01.002) also donated by Billie Cox in January 2011. The tractor did not need as extensive cleaning and airing as the truck, but it was still pretty filthy. Jeff's first focus was getting new tires, front and back, for the tractor. He is carefully stripping out the engine compartment when he's not helping Roger with his project. Also, Jeff is working on a tractor drawn cultivator for the outdoor exhibits.



Volunteers, Roger and Jeff, putting objects just where they want them.



### ? ASK JEF AND ROGER?

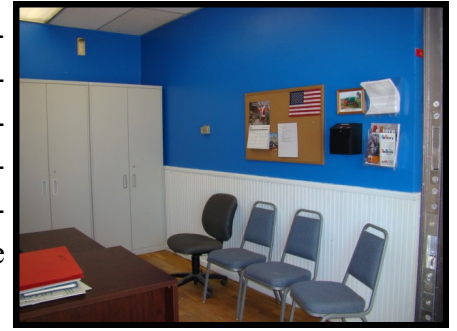
The ReStore Exhibit panels provide continuous up-to-date information about their projects with photographs and written explanations. As part of the exhibit, there is a place for visitors to write and post questions. Simply leave your email on the post and an answer is sent directly to you within a couple of weeks. And you are guaranteed — if they do not know the answer, they will make something up!

If you are interested in learning about artifact restoration or helping with restoration projects please contact us at

[ccfm@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:ccfm@co.collin.tx.us)

# EXHIBITS AND COLLECTIONS - AN ONGOING STORY

When the Collin County Farm Museum closed for the winter months in December, the staff and volunteers started gearing up for some major cleaning, reorganizing and inventory of the collections. One of the first steps was to get the museum office organized. This meant painting the walls, scrubbing the floors, moving unnecessary objects and furniture out, replacing ceiling tiles and light fixtures, etc... Now the volunteers and Museum Coordinator are very happy to have a comfortable place to work.



The second project was to designate four main areas in the Farm Museum for exhibits. To assist visitors when they visit the museum, the four areas were color coded and highlighted by large banners. The first exhibit area designated was the ReStore Exhibit (featured on page 4) and color coded red. The second exhibit area was Tractor Row, color coded green. Here visitors see a variety of historically restored and unrestored tractors as well as an explanation of the evolution of farm technology. These exhibit areas were completed in December.



The two remaining exhibit areas under construction are scheduled for completion at the end of January. The third exhibit is the “Revolution of the Harvest” exhibit which was featured in the Fall 2011 newsletter. This area is color coded yellow. The last exhibit area is color coded blue and is a temporary exhibit space which will feature the Farm Museum’s “The Cotton Harvest” exhibit showcasing at the Collin County Livestock Show during the first week of January.



The collections storage area has undergone drastic cleaning and reorganization. All objects and storage units were removed for extensive cleaning and then strategically replaced in the storage area. A cleaning area is designated outside the storage room, and currently all objects are being cleaned and inventoried before they are placed in the storage area. The Collin County Farm Museum is looking for help with regards to cleaning and inventory artifacts.





THIS WINTER  
LET US TRAVEL TO YOU!



## TRAVELING TRUNK PROGRAM

\*The Collin County Farm Museum presents the TEKS aligned Traveling Trunk Program. The trunks are divided into three unique subjects: #1. Food from the Farm, #2. Wool & Cotton, #3. Home on the Farm. Each trunk comes with a Teacher's Notebook and a wide selection of grade appropriate activities and instructions (K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade), as well as supplementary supplies needed to complete selected activities. The learning activities include class subjects, such as: science, history, math, creative writing, reading comprehension and art.

**FEE:** \$0.00/Pick-up or \$20.00/delivery

**Length of Rental:** 1 or 2 weeks max

**# of Trunk Rental:** 1 or 2 max

**Departure & Return Day:** Friday

Collin County libraries, museums, nonprofit and for profit organizations, events as well as schools may reserve a freestanding traveling exhibit to share on site with your patrons. Available in January is the "Cotton Harvest" exhibit. Another exhibit is scheduled for release for the Summer 2012.

For more information regarding either of these programs, please contact the Museum Coordinator at [ccfm@collincountytx.gov](mailto:ccfm@collincountytx.gov) or 972-548-4792.



## TRAVELING EXHIBITS



For thousands of years, since at least 5,000 B.C., cotton was used by humans for a variety of purposes, the most common is clothing. The stuff we call cotton, is the soft, fluffy fibers which grows around hard seeds. When the seeds are separated from the fibers, the fibers are then spun to make thread and yarn which is woven into cloth.

Cotton has a long and interesting history and the Collin County Farm Museum's exhibit only focuses on a small portion of it. Cotton farms were common in Collin County from the 1840s onward. One such farm was run by Mr. T.L. Roper. Mr. Roper was born in 1842 in South Carolina and moved to Texas about 1854. In 1878 he bought his first 60 acres in Collin County. During the next 12 years he bought three more adjoining parcels of land. Sometime before 1892, he built a Cumberland style house on his farm. (A large scale model of the house is included in the exhibit.)

Mr. Roper's farm was a cotton farm and large white sacks were found in front of the house. These sacks were typical of what cotton pickers used to accumulate and measure their harvested cotton. The sacks were long and designed to be carried/dragged through the fields, weighted, and delivered to the wagons for transportation to the cotton gins. Each picker had a sack and filled it before "weighing up." A sack of cotton would weigh about 20 pounds for children and up to 150 pounds for adults. (See the child in the far right corner.) An estimated total of 1,500 pounds of seeded cotton was required to make a 500 pound bale of ginned cotton.



The cotton arrived at the gin in wagons or trailers. Then it was sucked into the gin by a pipe. The cotton entered a dryer to remove moisture before being sent to the cleaners. At the cleaners, the cotton was cleaned of dirt, leaves and burrs. Finally the cotton was passed over fine combs which caught the cotton fibers and separated it from the seeds. The fibers were collected and pressed together to form bales for storage and transportation.





# DONATIONS

- Barbara & John E. Johnson donated a 1934 crib with the original mattress and a hand-made wooden doll cradle. These items were donated in memory of John E. "Ed" Johnson, Sr. & in honor of Wilma E. Johnson. The museum is excited to find a family willing to part with their baby items.
- Claude Frazier donated a set of late 1800s hoof trimmers and clevis. We thank Claude sincerely because we are always on the search for items such as clevises and square screws for our restoration work.
- Helen Garner donated a lot of 25 items for the museum's collection consisting of mostly farm kitchen items. Some objects were in their original box and had instruction books. The museum is VERY pleased to have this collection. This collection was given in memory of Rome V & Bess Duckworth Edwards.

Collin County Farm Museum

is now on...

facebook®



Like

Would you like a romantic picture and an exciting adventure for Valentines Day? Watch for a special post on our facebook page in which you can get a limited coupon for a ride in the 1911 Ford Model T and get your picture taken. Additionally, the pictures will appear in the next ReStore Newsletter.



*The Collin County Farm Museum  
sincerely thanks you for your support!*

# RESTORE

Get involved with

Vehicle Maintenance Volunteers &  
Public Program Volunteers

[www.myersinfo.com](http://www.myersinfo.com)



Like



Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone #: .....

Email: .....

- ☐ Check any of the following:
- ☐ Interested in restoring history.
- ☐ Interested in developing programs.